

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation
Submitted Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4332 (2) (c)
by the
U.S. Department of Transportation,
Federal Highway Administration
and
Vermont Agency of Transportation

The following persons may be contacted for additional information concerning this document:

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Cooperating Agencies

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Abstract: This statement concerns the environmental impacts associated with the implementation of roadway improvements to address transportation problems in a project area between Interstate Route I-89 and the Towns of Williston and Essex and the Village of Essex Junction in Chittenden County, Vermont. The purpose of the Circ-Williston Transportation Project (proposed project) is to improve access to, from and within the project area (from Interstate Route I-89 to the Towns of Williston and Essex and the Village of Essex Junction in Northwest Vermont) and remedy existing and projected deficiencies, including traffic congestion, safety and mobility issues (including the movement of both people and goods) and issues regarding truck traffic on local roadways. The proposed project resulted from numerous studies and plans for improving transportation in Williston and Essex that were undertaken at various levels of government since the late 1950s and a more recent scoping and alternatives screening as part of this Environmental Impact Statement process. The alternatives screening analysis served to identify and evaluate a range of alternatives to potentially address project area congestion, safety, mobility and truck traffic issues. The No Build Alternative and the proposed alternative roadway improvements (Build Alternatives) are described and compared. Implementation of the proposed project would potentially result in direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to regulated wetlands, water quality, residential and business properties, land development patterns, agricultural land, wildlife habitat areas, recreational and historic properties, and ambient noise. All reasonable alternatives are under consideration and a decision on the preferred alternative will be made after the alternatives' impacts and comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and from the public hearing have been fully evaluated.

Comments on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement are due by November 8, 2007 and should be submitted via the project website at <http://www.circeis.org> or sent to either:

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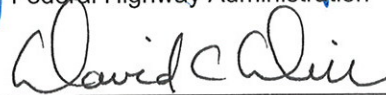
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For Federal Highway Administration

7/31/07

Date of Approval



For Vermont Agency of
Transportation